

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 4, Great Falls September 2, 2008

Contact: Bruce Auchly

ANNUAL ATLATL HUNT SET AT BUFFALO JUMP FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION SERIES

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS AT BUFFALO JUMP STATE PARK

Annual Atlati Hunt Set at Buffalo Jump

(406) 454-5840

<u>First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park</u>, formerly known as Ulm Pishkun State Park, will host the 20th Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt Atlatl Competition, September 5-7, 2008.

The Montana Mammoth Hunt Atlatl Competition is a friendly event with categories for youth, adult males and adult females. The atlatl is a throwing stick that increases the leverage of the human arm.

If you've never thrown an atlatl spear, you can spend time at the learning station, receive instruction and take part in the competition.

The 20h Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt Atlatl Competition is free to residents; nonresidents must pay a park admission fee. No reservations are required. Sept. 5 is a set up day, but park staff and volunteers will be on hand, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., to answer questions. Competition takes place on 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sept. 6, and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sept. 7.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park is located 13.5 miles southwest of Great Falls, MT. Take I-15 from either Great Falls or Helena to the Ulm exit (exit

270). At the exit, turn north on the Ulm-Vaughn Road and follow it for 3.5 miles to the park entrance.

For additional information contact Robert Thomson at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park at (406) 866-2217.

First Nations Education Series

<u>First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park</u>, formerly known as Ulm Pishkun State Park, will host the annual First Nations Education Series of programs. The series runs weekends through September and features programs on various aspects of Native American culture and history.

- Sept. 6 Eastern Tribes in the West: Iroquois, Delaware and other
 Tribes in the American West During the 19th Century presented by park naturalist Robert Thomson;
- Sept. 7 Spiritual Aspects of the Buffalo Jump presented by Don
 Fish, Blackfeet tribal member;
- Sept. 13 The Story of the Bitterroot presented by Filmmaker and Producer Steve Slocomb;
- Sept. 14 A Meeting By The River: The First Crow Agency, 1869-1875 presented by Western Heritage Center Community Historian Kevin Kooistra-Manning;
- Sept. 20 Marriage and Families In the North American Fur Trade presented by park naturalist Robert Thomson;

Sept. 21 – Myths and Misconceptions of Native American

Ceremonies presented by Blackfeet tribal member Don Fish.

All programs will be presented at 2:00 PM in the classroom or storytelling circle. The presentations are free to the public and no reservations are required.

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Poster Contest Winners At Buffalo Jump State Park

The winning entries in this year's state parks poster contest will be on display at the First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park near Ulm through Sept. 5.

This year's theme was "Experience Montana State Parks." Fifth grade students statewide were asked to illustrate an experience they might have in a state park and to describe it.

Emily Perkins of Ruder Elementary in Columbia Falls took first with a poster of Wayfarers State Park near Bigfork illustrating a bashful mother bear and two cubs frolicking in the park.

Perkins received prizes valued at \$200, which included her choice of two nights lodging for her family in a Montana State Park yurt, cabin or tipi and a backpack filled with equipment and field guides. Perkins' class also received a field trip to the state park of their choice.

Second place was awarded to **Sabrina Riff** of Montana City School in Clancy. Third place winner was **Devin Maves** of Forsyth Elementary in Forsyth. Riff and Maves received prizes valued at \$150 and \$100 respectively, including backpacks.

Honorable mentions went to:

- Sierra Rauscher, Prairie View School, Conrad;
- Markaela Francis, Lewis and Clark Elementary, Great Falls;
- Talli Carmalt, West Valley School, Kalispell;
- Tasha Schalin, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Great Falls; and
- Cody Wiers, Emily Dickinson School, Bozeman.